I. **Purpose of the Fund**

Presenting and publishing papers and exhibits or performances of creative work represent tangible evidence of research, scholarly, and/or creative activities. Therefore, the FRTF is designed to provide financial assistance for bargaining unit faculty to travel to meetings of professional organizations for the express purposes of:

- Reporting the results of original or applied research,
- Exhibiting or performing creative works.

Examples of creative activities funded include:

- MASQUES for piano and brass quintet performed at a public concert at New York’s Carnegie Hall
- Solo recital, Five Sonorous Inventions, National Association of Music Teachers, National Convention, Dallas, TX

Examples of travel that are not funded:

- Chairing a meeting or panel without presenting
- Attendance at meetings as a board member without presenting
- Serving as a moderator
- Serving as a commentator

II. **Eligibility**

A. Individuals eligible for travel support are restricted to all those holding Board-appointed faculty rank (i.e., members of the bargaining unit) at the time that the paper or the creative activity is presented.

B. One application is accepted per fiscal year.

C. While WMU has a travel ban all travel must have prior approval via the WMU process at https://wmich.edu/travel.

D. Virtual conference registration fees are allowable as long as all eligibility items (part I.) are met.

III. **Reimbursement Conditions**

A. The department chair must certify that the professional organization or forum
at which the work is presented is of high caliber.

**B. Reimbursement** will be for the following actual, allowable expenses – up to the annual maximum amount approved by the Research Policies Council (RPC) each September for the current fiscal year.

1. Transportation costs, economy class air fare, and related ground transportation;
2. Meals for **three days**;
3. Lodging for **two nights**; and
4. Conference or exhibition registration fees.

**C. Reimbursement will not** be made to **Funds 25 through 29**. If expenditures are made from grant accounts, they are NOT reimbursable.

**D. All expenditures** made through the FRTF must conform to the University’s travel policy. All pre-approvals must be attached.

**IV. Application Procedures**

**A. Applications for travel reimbursement** from the FRTF must be submitted directly to the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) as a single PDF to ovpr_internfund@wmich.edu within 30 days of the end of the conference and include the following:

1. Completed application form (see www.wmich.edu/research/funding/faculty/frtf).
2. Completed and approved copy of the travel authorization form.
3. Completed, **signed, and approved** copy of the travel expense voucher.
4. A copy of the conference or exhibition **program cover page** (showing conference dates) and a copy of the **session page showing name of the faculty member with the title of either the paper or the creative activity presented**. If the faculty member is listed as chair of a panel, evidence that a presentation was made must be provided.

**B. Questions about eligibility or documentation for a trip should be referred to ovpr_internfund@wmich.edu prior to the planned travel.**

**V. Operation of the Fund**

The FRTF program coordinator ovpr_internfund@wmich.edu in ORI will administer the research travel fund. The program coordinator will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the fund, in consultation with the faculty liaison. The faculty liaison, who must be a member of the bargaining unit and a member of the RPC, will be responsible for consulting regularly with the program coordinator and making recommendations regarding FRTF policies and procedures to RPC.